

REMARKS

Claims 27-63 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claim 54 is amended for clarity and consistency.

In reply to the March 2, 2006 Election of Species Requirement, Applicants provisionally elect Species 1, with traverse. At least claims 27, 28, 30, 32, 33, 35, 37 and 39 read on the elected species. At least claim 27 is generic.

It is respectfully submitted that unity of invention has been admitted under PCT rules because the International Search Report was made for the entire application, without asserting lack of unity of invention.

It is also respectfully submitted that the subject matter of all species is sufficiently related that a thorough search for the subject matter of any one species would encompass a search for the subject matter of the remaining species. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that the search and examination of the entire application could be made without serious burden. See MPEP §803 in which it is stated that "if the search and examination of an entire application can be made without serious burden, the examiner must examine it on the merits, even though it includes claims to independent or distinct inventions" (emphasis added). It is respectfully submitted that this policy should apply in the present application in order to avoid unnecessary delay and expense to Applicants and duplicative examination by the Patent Office.

Thus, withdrawal of the Election of Species Requirement is respectfully requested.

It is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance.

Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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